

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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## A TICKET TO HELL, or A PASS TO HEAVEN

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Romans 6:23.

By Evangelist John R. Rice

(Preached over "Back To The Bible" Broadcast, Lincoln, Nebraska. Mechanically recorded.)

When I first decided God wanted me to preach, I was in Chicago, at the Pacific Garden Mission where Billy Sunday was saved, where "Mel" Trotter was saved, where so many great men of God were saved. And there I preached my first sermon on this little text, Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

### I. The Wages of Sin Is Death

The first part of this verse says the wages of sin is death. That is half of it: "The wages of sin is death." Many people are mighty anxious to get their wages. I worked for a construction company one time, and when Saturday came I was awfully disturbed because I was not paid for the Saturday morning's work. I was told, "You will have to get that next week." And I had to come the whole week in order to make sure I would get that last Saturday's pay. I was anxious that I get my wages.

There is a law about wages—I mean God's law, not just man's law, though man's law fits in with it. The law is this: that whatever you sow, you reap; whatever you work for, you have a right to get. That is the law of wages; you are supposed to get certain wages. So God says the wages of sin is death.

#### 1. Sin brings physical death.

Do you remember the story about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? They sinned. God said, "You must not take the fruit of this tree of the knowledge of good and evil; you must not eat it. You may have everything else

in the garden. You may have all you want to eat; you may smell the pretty flowers, and play with the animals. Everything is beautiful and fine, and for you to enjoy, but do not eat of that fruit." But they disobeyed God and sinned, and so death came into the world. Up to that time nobody had ever been sick. Nobody had ever died, and nobody had ever gotten angry. Nobody had ever been unkind; nobody had ever been unhappy. Oh, when there was no sin, there was no death, no trouble! Until sin came nobody had ever shed a tear; nobody had ever had a broken heart. As soon as they sinned, then Adam and Eve began to die. It was as certain then as if it had already happened, that Adam would one day die, that Eve would one day die. The wages of sin is death, and they had sinned. From that time on, everybody in the world has been sinful, and so every one of us has to die, if Jesus does not come before death.

All right, now, here is a law: the wages of sin is death. You can not get by God's law.

I went into a hospital to see

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## The Day of Pentecost

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."—Acts 1:8.

By Rev. Charles E. Fuller, D.D.

(Sermon preached Sunday night, June 21, 1942, over Old Fashioned Revival Hour, stenographically Reported)

Now with your Bible open to the second chapter of Acts, the message is based upon this wonderful book. Remember the key is in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." We saw last Sunday night that the book centers around three persons; Peter in Jerusalem, Philip in Samaria, and Paul to the uttermost part of the earth; the acts of the risen Christ through Holy Spirit empowered witnesses. Now the second chapter of Acts is one of great importance. This chapter should have your prayerful and careful study. Please do not read into it some things that are not there but read it exactly as it is written. The present day church on the whole is somewhat ignorant as to what did really occur on the day of Pentecost. And the church, especially the church today, greatly needs to know more of the office and work of the Holy Spirit. This is the dispensation of the Spirit. Because of this lack of knowledge, some things have crept into the modern-day church which are certainly not very pleasing to the Heavenly Father.

### I. The Pouring Out of the Holy Spirit

The outstanding event recorded in chapter 2 is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, in power upon the waiting disciples in Jerusalem, fifty days after the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Many Saved in Spokane

By the Editor

Last Friday night there were twenty-five conversions and reclamations in the united Spokane revival where twenty-five churches are cooperating under the leadership of this evangelist. Saturday night there were thirty-five conversions and reclamations at the Youth for Christ rally where I spoke in the same city. Sunday night there were eight professions. We are entering the last week and hope to see many saved. Some have come to trust Christ at every public invitation.

I close here next Sunday night, October 28, and leave immediately after the service, God willing, by plane for Chicago and Wheaton, for four and a half days at my home and office. Then I fly to Portland, Oregon, for Youth for Christ services Saturday night, November 3, and go by train that night to Seattle where I begin a great union campaign Sunday, November 4. Some sixty Seattle churches will cooperate in the campaign. Extensive work has been done in preparation. Dr. Robert J. Wells very profitably spent one week there. Last Tuesday I flew from Spokane to Seattle at the request of the Seattle committee to spend the day with them. About eighty ministers met me at the Mission Covenant Church, with some leading business men of the city. They were on their knees in a great prayer meeting when I arrived. At a luncheon in the large Mission Covenant Church I spoke to these men and God gave us a tremendously moving time

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Dr. Charles E. Fuller

day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

And then we read in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusa-

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## God Bless America? AMERICA, BLESS GOD!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"—Psalm 33:12.

By Rev. C. A. Cooper,

Director of World-wide Monthly Tract Club  
Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Spokane, Washington

The church deserves allegiance;  
And worship must not lag—  
No nation will meet disaster  
While the cross precedes the flag.  
—Harriet Knight Salvage

O Lord, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And bless our land, our home!  
—Selected.

America's hour of destiny has struck. The preponderance of the weight of her sins on the one hand, or her return to God on the other, will be the answer to the petition heard, sung and seen everywhere, "God Bless America." America has already received God's blessing far out of proportion to her just deserts. It is the suggestion of this writer that Americans adopt the slogan "AMERICA BLESS GOD" instead. It is America's turn to bless (honor, glorify) God before she can rightfully expect added blessing and reinforcement in this, her hour of travail.

How can God further Bless America in the face of the brazen liquor traffic? We have 412,700 retail outlets, or about one for every 30 adults. In one state there is a saloon for every 53 persons including non-drinkers and babies. There is a liquor license for every 267 persons and a bar room for every

71 homes. America is fast becoming a liquor soaked nation, a nation of drunkards. One million new addicts will be made this year, one-third of which will be under twenty-one years of age. Of American youth between sixteen and twenty-four, sixty-two per cent are drinkers. There are 1,350,000 barmaids in 'Christian' America. Alcoholic mental disorders cost \$187,000,000 annually. Up to forty per cent of all mental cases are alcoholics. In one year the 486 breweries in America destroyed 15,000,000 tons of grains, 1,000,000 tons of fruits, 70,000 tons of sugars, 4,000,000 gallons of molasses. The occasion of this sabotage added up to a five years supply of alcohol, besides the consumption of 2,100,000,000 gallons of intoxicants, and proved an economic loss to the nation of over \$5,000,000,000 through liquor-bred

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## With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor

### Over 700 Conversions In Phoenix Meeting With Appelman

We are happy to pass on a great report from Dr. Hyman J. Appelman. He says:

"The Lord was mightily magnified in a definite display of the Holy Spirit in a three weeks revival in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee, the Gideons, and a number of the most thorough evangelical evangelistic churches of every denomination. The services were held in the Shrine Auditorium, the crowds ranging from 1500 to 2500 nightly. There were beyond 700 first time definite professions of faith in the inquiry rooms. There were scores of transfers of membership. There were hundreds of restorations." Evangelist Hyman Appelman did the preaching. The gospel singer, Homer Britton, led the singing and did very acceptable solo work. Reese Verner was the general chairman.

### Associate Editor In Spokane, Washington

The Associate Editor has just concluded a special series of meetings with the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Spokane, Washington. Rev. Edwin C. Deibler, the pastor, writes concerning the meetings:

"Dr. Robert J. Wells has just concluded a week of unusual, yet preeminently helpful and fruitful services, in the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Spokane, Washington. The services were planned to prepare our people for the large Union Evangelistic Campaign with Dr. John R. Rice, now in progress in this city. This high purpose was achieved under God with remarkable effectiveness. The people have manifested genuine concern for the lost and have given themselves in many instances to the campaign without reserve. A number of lives have been completely changed and an attitude of firm expectancy created so that many are trusting

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lem, until ye be endued with power from on high." And then the first chapter of Acts, verses 4 and 5 tell us about the disciples, "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Now on the day of Pentecost these blessed promises were fulfilled.

## II. The Dove a Type of the Holy Spirit's Power Abiding

Now in the Old Testament there are many beautiful pre-figures, foreshadows of the work of the Holy Spirit, and one of these so beautifully brought out is under the emblem of a dove. Follow me carefully for a moment, please. The first mention of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is under the emblem of a dove. Genesis 1:2 tells us after the original creation, how the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved (literally, the mother dove brooding) upon the face of the waters. That is a picture of the mother dove warning the rest. Now the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is in Matthew 3:16 where the Holy Spirit descended upon the Lord Jesus in the form of a dove. Now back in the eighth chapter of Genesis, after the flood, we are told a little incident about Noah; how after he sent forth a raven, he sent forth a dove from him to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground. "He sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off; so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more."

Now here is the application. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came, and finding no rest for the sole of His feet, so to speak, He came upon men of old. The Holy Spirit empowered them but did not stay, going back to the Father. How beautiful there in the Old Testament is the saint! Then when Christ was offered upon the cross of Calvary, He, through the eternal Spirit, was offered as sacrifice for sin once and for all, and when Christ cried, "It is finished," the Holy Spirit took back to the Father the plucked off Olive Branch as a symbol that the work on Calvary's cross had been accomplished by symbol of victory in redemption in Christ Jesus. Now the Holy Spirit came after the day at Pentecost and returned not again unto Him. The Holy Spirit is here and you do not need to pray for the Holy Spirit to

come. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came forth and is here now in the world and no one needs to ask for Him to come. He is here, and He loves to take the things of Christ and reveal them unto men. First he reveals to those who are outside of Christ their condition before God as lost, Hell-bound sinners, dead in trespasses and in sin, and that a sinner can be justified by faith and have peace with God, trusting fully in God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God has sent forth to be a propitiation through faith in the blood. According to His righteousness, we are partakers with God. Second, to those who are born again, converted, members of Christ's body, the true church, the Holy Spirit is a teacher, and an enlightener. He loves to teach us of the deep things of Christ, that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

## III. A United Prayer Meeting

Now chapter two of the book of Acts. All this is foundational. Remember Acts 1:8 is the key. Now we see how the Holy Spirit came in power and how that power was applied and how, right after Pentecost, impetuous Peter begins his Spirit-empowered ministry in Jerusalem and three thousand souls were added to the church. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Pentecost is a Jewish feast and the word *Pentecost* is from the Greek word meaning fifty, the feast occurring fifty days after the offering of the barley sheafs in the feast of the Passover. It commemorated the feast of harvest. And here we have in Acts 2:1-4 a picture of the waiting disciples. Look back with me to the thirteenth verse of the first chapter of Acts. "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John," and naming the other disciples and now notice "these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, [Notice how accurate the Holy Spirit is to put Mary on the level with other women, not above them] and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren." Now all continued in one accord in prayer and supplication. And then we come to the first verse of chapter 2, "all with one accord in one place."

Beloved friends, listen, a ten days Spirit-empowered prayer meeting! Oh, no wonder things happened! No wonder Peter was used by the Holy Spirit to speak and have three thousand souls added to the church! And I want to tell you something, your pastor and this radio program will be just as effective as you men and women of prayer pray for the

Spirit to use the preaching of the Word. One of Satan's tricks is to cause division and strife and hindrance in the body of Christ. Wherever you find such a church with back-biting and bickering, and devouring of one another, you find a powerless, lifeless church. Oh, read the great truth found in Ephesians where Paul says, "I . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit." Listen, I don't care what human tag you want to put upon yourself, whether you belong to this denomination or that denomination. To magnify denominational differences is so silly. In the light of eternity the important question is whether you are born again, a new member of the body of Christ. There is only one body and that is the true church composed of every blood-washed, born-again child of God. " . . . one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Now He says He gave gifts for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, till we all come in the unity of the faith. And how wonderful it is to gather around the Word and give Christ the preeminence in all we do! I am sick and tired of man-made fences and man-made programs. Some can say, "Amen" to that. We have some Methodists here, I am sure!

## IV. The Wind, Breath of God!

Let us go back to the second chapter of Acts, verse 2, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind." Now the wind, the breath of God, is quickening, life-giving and empowering. One of the beautiful types of the work of the Holy Spirit is a study of the wind or breath through the entire Scripture. In the second chapter of Genesis, speaking there of the original creation of Adam, we are told that after Adam was formed of the clay, the ground, God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul. You take the Red Sea experience when the children of Israel were facing that tremendous test, when Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong wind all that night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided—the power of the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. And in the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel we read of the valley of the dry bones: "Can these bones live?" We read there where the Spirit of the prophet said, "Prophesy upon these bones." And God breathed upon these dry bones and bone came to bone and stood upon their feet and God breathed upon them and they became living people. Can Israel, now scattered, cast away, set aside, be one day a new, living nation? Yes, when God breathes upon them and gives them a new heart.

## V. Cleansing for Witnessing

Now back to the second of Acts. We find there not only an emblem of wind but in the third verse, "tongues like as of fire." Do you

know what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to have the purifying power of the Holy Spirit? Listen, Isaiah the prophet back in the days of old, standing in the temple, filled with God's presence, says, "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:5-8). And I want to tell you out of the conviction of my heart, fellow pastor, fellow Christian worker, you cannot be used of God and have the unction of the Spirit until first of all you are filled with the Spirit and know something of the sweeping power of the breath of God and the baptism of the Holy Spirit and its purifying fire-like qualities. Oh, that we would have preachers over this land who are under the unction of the Spirit! Bless your heart, I have heard sermons so-called that are tinkling cymbals and sounding brass; beautiful orations, marvelous rhetoric, grammatically correct, everything perfect, but sermons that never even get to the first row in the congregation. You know what I mean. I had rather listen to a stuttering Sam that is on fire for God, that butchers the king's English, that knows God and is Holy Spirit inspired and under the unction of the Spirit, than to have a million beautifully prepared so-called sermons that are as dead as a door nail. Some of you can say, "Amen" to that. All right. You are with me, aren't you? I just wanted to know if you are.

Notice. "There appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Notice the fourth verse and read exactly what it says. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues." Now listen, they did not speak in unknown tongues. They began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Oh beloved friends, listen to me. Dropping down to verses 6 through 8 I read as follows, "Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" That is what happened on the day of Pentecost, not speaking in unknown tongues, but they spoke with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. And friend of mine, I had rather speak two words inspired by the Holy Spirit and under the unction of the Spirit than speak for half an hour and not have the driving power of the Holy Spirit back of it, to speak as the Holy Spirit gives utterance.

## With the EVANGELISTS

(Continued from page one)

God for the greatest revival and ingathering of souls ever to come to the Inland Empire. A remarkable and wonderfully blessed feature of Dr. Wells' ministry was that it attracted a large number of local pastors. Spokane hopes to have Dr. Wells return and lead us in a more extended series of services."

## Clifford Lewis Has Good Campaign In Morrisonville, Illinois

A member of The Christian Business Men's Committee sponsoring the recent Clifford Lewis Campaign writes:

"The evident blessing of God was upon revival services held recently in Morrisonville, Illinois, by Clifford Lewis, in spite of difficulties, chief of which was the shortness of time for planning. In the short space of one week the evangelist was secured, a tent found and pitched, advertising printed and distributed, a song leader and accompanist hunted down, and numerous details cared for.

"The meetings were sponsored by the local Christian Business Men's Committee, who did a fine job in making the revival a success. Five churches in and around Morrisonville lent their support. The tent was full almost every night.

"One of the high points of the meetings was the all-night prayer meeting, held the second Wednesday night. About fifty were present at the start and eighteen at the close. Nine continued in prayer all night. It was wonderful to see the Lord answer prayer in the days that followed. In all, about 100 came forward, half of whom were seeking salvation. On the closing night several young people offered themselves for service, yielding to God's will in their lives.

"The revival is not over. There is new life in the churches, and a new consecration among Christians. Many are looking forward to an even greater meeting next year, and plans are already in the making to that end. The prayer interest of *The Sword of the Lord* readers will be greatly appreciated."

Dr. John R. Rice, evangelist, editor of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, gets not a penny of salary as editor, not a dime of royalty from his books. He and Mrs. Rice have given thousands of dollars to make *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* what it is, America's foremost evangelistic weekly. Won't you help the office staff give him a present of 25,000 subscriptions in the present campaign by his fiftieth birthday, December 11?

Lola Bradshaw,  
Treasurer,  
Assistant to the Editor

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## Saved in Spokane

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of dedication, consecration and prayer. I believe that God will give one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest revival I ever saw, there, November 4-21. Week-night services will be held in the Masonic Auditorium. Sunday afternoon and evening services will be held in the Civic Auditorium seating 6,500. I earnestly plead for the prayers of every reader. We ought to have 2,000 or 3,000 conversions.

## THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE  
D.D., LITT. D.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Th. D.  
Associate Editor

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By Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor

I know that many of you will want to have a part in this great subscription campaign in order to take advantage of the two unusually attractive premiums we are offering to those who help us carry the tremendous burden of increasing the circulation, and thus, the influence of *The Sword of the Lord*. I am confident that the majority of our subscribers and friends will want to assist us in this project, primarily because of the inherent worth of *The Sword of the Lord*, and the unusual opportunity afforded by its pages for ministering to others. Here are twelve reasons why I think you should subscribe to *The Sword of the Lord* for yourself and for your friends during this special subscription campaign:

### 1. IT IS A GOOD WAY TO GET YOUR UNSAVED LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS SAVED!

Most of us have unsaved loved ones and friends for whom we constantly pray. We are naturally concerned about their salvation, and so, we do our best to get them to attend gospel services with us, and I trust we do our best to personally lead them to Christ. But in thousands and thousands of cases, in spite of our praying, our personal witnessing, and our endeavor to get them to attend gospel services, they are still unsaved. Many have discovered that one of the best means of bringing their unsaved loved ones and friends to Christ is to give them a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord*. Hundreds testify to the effectiveness of this plan. Oftentimes the unsaved will read gospel messages in the quiet of their own homes when they will not attend church, and when they will not listen to your personal invitation. If you are really concerned about your unsaved loved ones and friends, we suggest that you can find no better

means of reaching them with the gospel than through giving each of them a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* during this, the editor's fiftieth birthday campaign.

2. **IT KINDLES REVIVAL FIRES AMONG MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS!** The most insistent and persistent note in the message of *The Sword of the Lord* is revival, and as a consequence, wherever it goes, it kindles revival fires. There are many preachers who, because of discouragements and disappointments in their ministry, or as a result of some false teaching, have given up hope for revival and never have revivals in their churches. Such preachers are frequently convicted of this condition through the pages of *The Sword of the Lord*, and are caused to repent and to believe God once again for old-fashioned revival. Every preacher in your town or city, and every student for the ministry, should be regular readers of *The Sword of the Lord*. Why not make a list of all those you know, and subscribe for them during this campaign?

3. **BECAUSE OF ITS SOUND DOCTRINAL POSITION!** In these terrible days in which we are living people are being deluded on every hand, and are in need of special help to keep them from falling into false teaching. Perhaps some of your friends are among those who are being deluded. There is no better way to help them than to give them a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord*. The old proverb says: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." With this in mind, it seems that every new convert should be given a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* so that through the careful reading of it, they will be kept from the snares of the wicked one.

4. **BECAUSE OF ITS EMPHASIS ON SOUL WINNING!** There are many Christian magazines, but comparatively very few that contain a really strong emphasis on soul winning and evangelism. Dr. Rice, the editor, has felt especially called of God to maintain at all costs, a definite soul-winning emphasis. Because of this, articles are frequently presented on the art of soul winning, and reports are given in almost every issue of the ministry of America's outstanding evangelists and their great soul-winning campaigns. This feature creates a passion for the lost and a vision for revival.

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# A TICKET TO HELL or A PASS TO HEAVEN

(Continued from page one)  
a girl in Plainview, Texas. She was only about fourteen, a beautiful girl with red hair, and so sad about a trouble that had come into her life. Do you know what was wrong? Sin had broken her heart. "The wages of sin is death." When they brought her baby to nurse she covered her face. She had never looked at her baby, and said she never would. She planned to give away the child, and wanted never ever to remember looking on that little face, to remind her of her shame. I had a letter yesterday from two colored boys in the state penitentiary at Huntsville, Texas. What is the matter? They are in Death Row. The only time a person ever comes out of those cells except if clemency is granted is when he goes to the electric chair. They know that when the door is opened and they are taken out, they will go straight to the electric chair. The switch will be turned on, and instantly they will go out into eternity to meet God. They have sinned, and they must get their wages. And the wages of sin, in that case, is literal, physical death now. Do you see how it goes?

I went to see a man in a jail at Fort Worth, Texas, who had killed another man. His name was Bob Silver. At first they would not let me in, but finally the Sheriff said, "All right, you can go in, Brother Rice, to talk to him about his soul." His face was pasty-

white and pale; he had been in solitary confinement a long time. His hand trembled, trembled as if he were eighty years old, though he was only about twenty-one. Do you know what his trouble was? He was condemned to die. He had sinned; and now he must take the wages of sin. "The wages of sin is death." Sometimes people die slowly, and sometimes they die immediately; but always, sin brings death.

## 2. Sin brings eternal spiritual death.

Sin brings death. It does not only bring death to the physical body, but it also brings eternal death. Do you know why people have to go to Hell? Because they have sinned. Do you know why they cannot enter Heaven? Because they are poor sinners and have not been saved. "The wages of sin is death."

Let's look at it this way: we are going to take a trip one day. Here is a train going one way. That train goes to Hell. There is a train going another way. It goes to Heaven. Now, everybody who gets on this train going to Hell gets his honest wages, just as you walk up and buy your own ticket. You need not complain about it, if you sin and go to Hell. You cannot blame anybody for it.

## II. The Gift of Eternal Life Through Christ

Here is the other train. How do you get on the train for Heaven? Listen carefully: "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Do you know the difference in wages and a gift? You have to work for wages. A gift you receive free. Do you see that? "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." How do you get to Hell? By deserving it. How do you get to Heaven? You get there when

you do not deserve it, because God gives it to you free. It is wonderful how many things we get free! You know, I am an evangelist. I am so busy in revivals and in trying to win souls that I get to the place where I do not notice about my clothes. Not so long ago I was in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A man there did not like it because I had on a cheap \$5.00 raincoat. He said:

"A preacher who preaches to as many people as you do, a preacher who has as many people who love him as you do, ought to wear nicer clothes."

I said, "Oh, these are fine enough for me."

But do you know what he did? He wrote me later and said, "I want you to get a suit, a good suit, and a good topcoat and a raincoat." And he insisted that I pay at least \$150 for the outfit.

Why, I never spent that much money on clothes all at once in my life! My wife said, "Honey, the man has plenty of money, and he wants to buy the clothes for you." So finally I got a nice suit, a lovely overcoat and raincoat. There is more to the story, but the point is, that is a FREE gift. I did not work for it, I did not deserve it, I did not earn it; but there was a good man who loved me and gave it to me.

## 1. Salvation Is a Free Gift of God.

Do you see the point? Salvation is like that. How do you get salvation? It is the gift of God. It is the free gift of God. Now everyone who goes on the train to Hell, buys a ticket. I mean, everyone sins and deserves to go to Hell. But everyone who goes on the train to Heaven rides on a pass. He does not buy a ticket, because Jesus bought the ticket for him, and it is all paid for—the free gift of God. You see what it comes to: everybody who goes to Hell goes there because he deserves it. But if you want to go to Heaven, the only way is to let Jesus give salvation to you free.

## 2. Salvation Must Be Accepted.

In one of my meetings I remember offering a quarter to anybody who would come and take it. No one did.

I said to a boy, "You didn't believe I had a quarter there in my hand, did you? Why didn't you take it?"

He said, "I believed you had it, all right; but I didn't think you would give it to me."

And so he did not take it; he did not get the quarter.

Well, you don't get salvation for the same reason; you just do not take it. If you accept it, you can have it. You say, "Do you mean, Brother Rice, that I could be saved right now, if I just accept it free?" Why surely! That is right. God loves you. Jesus died for you. Isn't that what John 3:16 says? He is willing to give everlasting life to everybody who will trust in Him. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Oh, do not go on in sin and take the wages of sin! The thing to do is to confess your sin to the Lord and say, "Jesus, if You want to give me everlasting life free, I will take it. I know You love me and You died for me, and I will take it today. I will trust You about it and believe on You. I accept this free gift." Now, do you get that? Remember it is "through Jesus Christ our Lord." Just let Jesus come into your heart. Why don't you say, "All right, Lord Jesus, today I am going to give You my heart. I will trust You, and I will accept Your free gift of salvation." My, that is the best gift you will ever get!

"Yes! I Will Accept the Free Gift of Salvation!"

If you have read this little sermon and have never been saved, surely you know you are doomed to die, not only the first death but the second death too. You are a sinner and must reap the

wages of sin unless you repent and accept God's free gift of everlasting life through Jesus Christ.

If you will accept Christ and His salvation today, won't you sign the statement below, then copy it (or clip it out) and send it to me as your open confession of Christ as your Saviour, and I will send you a letter of counsel and instruction about how to live when you are saved. And I will be so glad to know that you have accepted Christ. Please do it today, right now!

Evangelist John R. Rice  
Editor, The Sword of the Lord  
214 West Wesley Street  
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

After reading your sermon on "A Ticket to Hell or a Pass to Heaven," I know I am a sinner and deserve to be condemned and receive a sinner's wages. But I am glad Jesus Christ offers everlasting life and today I accept that free gift. I trust Christ to forgive all my sins today, to save my soul and give me everlasting life free. Today I accept Him as my personal Saviour and Lord, and will try to live for Him and please Him the rest of my life.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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| 2. Just a Little Talk with Jesus | 6. What a Friend We        | Lead Me Gently Home,        |
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| 3. Lily of the Valley            | Your Harp                  | In the Sweet By and By      |
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# America, Bless God!

(Continued from page one)  
accidents, loss of man hours, absenteeism, etc., in addition to the usual \$10,000,000 daily liquor bill.

During the first year of repeal, milk consumption dropped 37,000,000 quarts, the second year 59,000,000 and the third year 69,000,000. In 1938 the average family spent \$84.88 for liquor and only \$48.68 for milk. This disparity has increased many fold since.

In contrast with present figures, the Eighteenth Amendment padlocked 177,790 saloons, 1754 breweries and distilleries, which in turn decreased the death rate from alcoholism 42%, insanity 66%, drunkenness 70%, crime 54%. (U. S. Court of Records.) Consequently 97 of the 98 Keeley Cure Institutes and all the Neal Cure hospitals were closed.

God pity our nation if an Abraham Lincoln, some twentieth century emancipator, some statesman, arise not within our borders to break the diabolical shackles which are being forged by this monstrous SABOTEUR of home, church and state. America, up in arms.

## That the Nation Perish Not

"The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish."—Isa. 60:42. No rational person will dispute the fact that liquor has defeated armies and caused the downfall of nations. "The excessive consumption of alcohol by

the French soldiers during the eight months before the German offensive was responsible for the collapse of the French front."—Le Temps, Paris, Aug. 10, 1940. Who can deny that it visited Pearl Harbor the night before Dec. 7, 1941, and paved the way for a major defeat to America? Who can offer one word in defense of its devastating role in the fall of Singapore? Drink defeated Marshal Ney, Napoleon's right hand man, causing him to arrive a day too late—then came Waterloo! One hundred and sixty-eight years ago Gen. Washington crossed the Delaware and won the battle of Trenton while the Hessians were drinking and feasting. Judgment fell from God upon ancient Babylon in 539 B. C. because of this and other sins. The night of revelry and drink was the night of doom, and the 'handwriting on the wall.' These are but a few of history's warnings to America to sober up in defense of her freedom.

Liquor is the ally of every nation arrayed against us. In World War I, Lloyd George said, "England has three enemies, Germany, Austria and LIQUOR, and liquor is WORSE THAN THE OTHER TWO TOGETHER." Our own Gen. Pershing demanded, "Banish the entire liquor industry from the United States. Close every saloon, every brewery. Suppress drinking by severe punishment to the drinker and if necessary DEATH to the SELLER and MAKER, or both as TRAITORS. I shall not go slow on prohibition, for I know what is the greatest foe to my men, GREATER EVEN THAN THE ENEMY." This vice is un-American and unpatriotic as well as un-Christian. Compared to it, Judas Iscariot, Benedict Arnold and Quisling were noble patriots. This is the enemy within our gates, the devil's best friend and God's worst enemy. It is a damning, blighting, treacherous enemy that gives no quarter. It was this sinister fifth columnist which in less than three weeks defeated France though her army was numerically stronger than

the enemy. Before France fell she had 477,000 drink shops and 17½ quarts consumption of absolute alcohol per person per year. We have 700,000 liquor joints and one of our states a per capita consumption of 23.5 gallons of intoxicants.

Only a return to the "Faith of our Fathers" from the debauchery of our times will witness God's blessing upon America and the lifting of the curse of liquor and lawlessness, blighted youth, corrupted womanhood, carnage and war.

## Rebirth of a Nation

"Shall a nation be born at once?"—Isa. 66:8. America needs to be "born again" spiritually. Because of sin, crime has fastened its deadly tentacles upon her. FBI states the crime bill to be \$16,000,000 annually, or nearly \$2,000,000 an hour. Of this amount 23.9% is caused by drink. One American in every 26 is a criminal. 200,000 murderers are at large. 300,000 now living will be murdered. Every 20 minutes a major crime is perpetrated. A murder or suicide is committed every twenty-odd minutes. In contrast there are only four suicides recorded in all Old Testament history covering 4000 years. J. Edgar Hoover laments a CRIME ARMY of 700,000 boys and girls in the land.

Added to all this is the MORALS DECLINE. It is estimated that there are 800,000 prostitutes in the land, that 65,000 girls are lost to this degrading vice each year, that 100,000 illegal children are born annually besides 1,000,000 illegal abortions, that 18,000,000 persons are infected with social disease. Last year over 40,000 girls under fourteen years of age became mothers. Schools are closed to curb resultant disease. Largely due to immorality, insanity is increasing twice as fast as the population. Virtue is laughed at and pre-marital chastity is considered silly. The sacredness of marriage is being antiquated with one marriage in every six ending in legalized adultery—we call it divorce.

AMERICA BLESS GOD, "bless and curse not." A rebuke is here-with tendered in the name of a Holy God, and in the name of all decent Americans, against the prevalent (if not fashionable) taking of the Lord's name in vain over radio networks, in the press, etc. Regarding "cursing and swearing" General Washington issued an order reflecting, "We can have LITTLE HOPE OF THE BLESSING OF HEAVEN upon our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it."

The God of individuals is the God of NATIONS. America must give account. "Break off thy sins by righteousness—if it may be the lengthening of thy tranquility."—Dan. 4:27. This alone was the divinely authorized plan for national security in other days. It is God's plan for OUR DAY! AMERICA BLESS GOD!!

(The above article may be had in tract form from World-wide Monthly Tract Club, Box 1, Spokane 1, Washington.)

## SWORD COMMENT

"Dear Sir:  
"Find enclosed \$1.00 for eight months subscription to **The Sword of the Lord**. My how I do enjoy that paper. I wouldn't be without it if I had to go without something to eat. It is as necessary to me as food. I really mean that. I do thank God that I have gotten straightened out on some things that were confusing to me before. I surely do enjoy Mr. Rice's articles. He makes things so plain to understand. May the Lord bless and prosper his work.

"In Jesus Name,  
"Mrs. Sidney Todd."

## BREAD FOR SINNERS

"Chicago, Illinois  
"October 4, 1945

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I have been asked to write to you by a seventy-two year old man. This man cannot write, but was willing to sign his name by marking (x) after I wrote the letter. But I have a bad hand at present and wouldn't be able to get it written in a short time.

"This man came to my door after being refused something to eat by the other people in different flats. I gave him two sandwiches and a piece of cake. And in one sandwich I wrapped one of your books, **What Must I Do to be Saved?** so he wouldn't miss it. This man thanked me and left.

"About one and a half hours later a milk man or some delivery man knocked on our door and told me there was a drunken man crying on the basement stairs. I went down to see and there was this man back. The tears were really falling down his cheeks. When he saw me, he cried out, 'Oh, lady, I am one of those lost ones!' and was wanting to know more about what those words were on the front below the picture as he couldn't see to read very well. I talked to him, explained them to him and read your book to him from front cover through back cover. Now the tears were falling faster than before. I asked him to kneel and I knelt with him on our basement stairs. I prayed with him and asked him to pray and ask God to save him from his sins and give him a good clean Christian heart. He really prayed a prayer covering a wide area of what his life was. I was no better in tears than he was. He seemed very happy and said he knew that his prayer was heard because he could feel it. His name is John G., but doesn't go by that name as no one seems to pronounce it, he said. He just stays where he can find a place to sleep as he has no relatives. I directed him to the Salvation Army that they might help him.

"You will also find enclosed \$1 from a Christian Science believer who was going through the yard at the time and heard me talking. She said that she liked those books but her folks would disown her if they knew it. I didn't get her name as she wouldn't give it because of her family. So I would like to ask prayer for her and this man.

"I am a member of Central Avenue Baptist Church, Rev. Swanson, pastor, and also an aunt of Edwin Miller who is studying for the ministry there at Wheaton College.

(Signed) "Mrs. A. Z."  
"Augusta Blvd.  
"Chicago 51, Illinois

(The full name and street number were given but we withheld them to avoid embarrassment.—Ed.)

"P.S. Please remember me in prayer that I will always be concerned about others as that lies very heavy with me. I have only been saved since June 26. I have to pray very often for guidance in the various requests that people ask of me."

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# A HAPPY HOME GOING

By the Editor

I have recently received from a beloved Methodist preacher a letter which breathes such fragrance of a happy marriage and reveals so clearly how sweet death can be to a Christian, that I take the liberty of publishing his letter. I feel sure he will be glad for others to know the comfort he has found. And there is such an honest and wholesome reflection of Christian marriage in the letter that I know it will do great good.

Mr. William H. Frederick, of 2201 Northampton St., Easton, Pa., read my pamphlet, **Bible Facts About Heaven**, wherein I tell of the home-going of my own mother, and how she saw her baby who had recently died, and saw the Lord Jesus, after bidding us all goodbye. That led him to write me, and his letter is given below.

"My dear Sir and Brother in Christ:

"I have read your book, **Bible Facts About Heaven**, with great pleasure and profit, and surely all things are true and can be relied upon when based on the infallible Word of God . . .

"Your book touches me deeply on account of my own family experience; and I trust you will par-

don this 'lengthy' epistle under the existing circumstances.

"My precious wife, Jennie, and I met first in grammar school in this city at the age of fourteen, fell deeply in love (true) at nineteen, and were married at twenty-two. We were blessed with four children; and God has been very good to us.

"She was born again, from above, at eighteen, and I at seventeen, and we started a family altar as soon as we married, and kept it up until her death.

"She was a wonderful woman all her life, a one hundred per cent wife and mother, with a sweet disposition (not pretty) which I often coveted and which was not wrong.

"What I really want to tell you is that while always a healthy woman, she went home to be with the Lord on January 15, 1944, dying of cancer at the age of nearly eighty-one years. I was only three months her senior. And think of it: three years of happy courtship and fifty-nine years of wedded bliss! The Easter of '44 was the first we were separated in sixty two years. Isn't that wonderful? Praise the Lord for all of His good grace! And we are so unworthy. Well, it is just like Him! She had no pain at any time, but wasted away. Her only complaint, if you can call it that, was, 'I am so weary.' And she begged and pleaded with Jesus to take her home.

"This is the part that confirms what you say in your book. She breathed her last, Saturday, January 15, 1944, at 5:15. The eve before, about 10:00 p.m., she lay with her sweet face upward, her eyes

closed (her sight had been leaving her), her hands folded. All at once she said, 'Oh, Will! Do you hear that lovely music? Call Myra (our daughter where we were living). Oh! and what lovely lights; Oh! how bright. Don't you see it and hear it? Oh! there is my mother (a saint who died sixty years ago), and brother, Harry (a believer who buried five years ago). Oh! and there is little Frances (our daughter whom the Lord took forty years ago at the age of five). Oh!!! and there is Jesus!' The night nurse (hard boiled) came near going out of the window.

"Next morning, when feeding her her breakfast, I said,

"Jen, did you have a vision last night?"

She said, "Yes I did," and repeated verbatim and in order what she had said on her bed the night before.

"I mentioned it to one of our Bible conference speakers some time later, and he said, 'Oh! Brother Frederick, that was no vision, she saw the real place to which she was going. There is record upon record where the dear Lord has drawn the curtains and shown His saints where they were going.'

"Mrs. Frederick was never visionary. I asked her one day,

"Well, Jennie, why are you so sure you are going to Heaven and will be with Jesus and mother and Frances? Is it because of your exemplary life and good character?"

She said, "Oh, no, Will. It is because Jesus died on the cross for my sins and I believe in Him."

"Praise the Lord. I knew she would say that!! Her last words to me were, 'My Willie boy, I'll be waiting for you.' Hallelujah! While the separation was terrible, I held no resentment, and thanked God for relieving her of her distress.

"A brother pastor wrote me, 'Brother Frederick, you should be, no doubt are, thankful to God for the long, long fellowship He allowed you; and remember, the longer together, the shorter the separation.' How true, thank God!!

"Well brother, I hope I have not wearied you; but I thought such an experience might be a help and a blessing in your work . . .

"With best wishes, I am,  
"Sincerely yours in Him,  
(Signed) "William H. Frederick

(Old fashioned local preacher of the Methodist Church)  
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# JESUS DID NOT SET UP ANY DENOMINATION

By the Editor

A dear sister writes, "Does it make any difference what kind of a church we belong to? If the Lord set up a church while on earth, is that the one we should belong to? What difference will there be in the ones that belong to the one He set up and the man-made one? Or, in other words, will all saved people be invited to the marriage feast of the church and Christ?"

In answer, I have written the following which may clarify the matter in the minds of some: "Dear Mrs. —:

"You wrote asking me, 'Does it make any difference what kind of a church we belong to? If the

Lord set up a church on earth, is that the one we should belong to?"

"You have a wrong conception of what the word **church** means. You are using the word church as referring to a denomination, though it is never used in that sense in the Bible. The Lord Jesus did not start any denominations.

"In Bible times there were simply local churches, like the 'church of God at Corinth,' 'the churches of Galatia,' etc. They were not organized into a denomination, and the word church simply means a **called-out assembly**. The modern way of calling a church building a church is wrong. And it is equally wrong to call a denomination a church.

"The Roman Catholic group first organized into a denomination, and they are the ones back of this idea that a denomination is a church. We who believe the Bible ought not to follow this Catholic

tradition, but ought to follow the Word of God.

"Now, does it matter what kind of a local congregation one belongs to? Yes, it does. One ought to belong to a local congregation that patterns after the Bible as much as possible. A local church, a congregation, ought to teach the Word of God, and ought to try to follow the Word of God. It is better to belong to a church that follows the Bible than one that does not follow the Bible.

"You asked if there will be any difference in Heaven between the ones that belong to one denomination and those who belong to another denomination. None at all, on that basis. It may be that two men will be members of a Baptist church, and one will win many souls, and the other will win none. The one who has won many souls will be rewarded in Heaven and will be very happy there. The one who has won no souls and done no good work for Jesus will be very much ashamed and will certainly lose his reward. I am not talking about salvation now, but about reward.

"I would rather be a good Christian in a church that is wrong in doctrine than to be a poor Chris-

tian in a church that is sound in doctrine. The Bible certainly does not teach that there will be any reward in Heaven for belonging to any certain denomination.

"Thank you for your letter, and I pray God will richly bless you. "In Jesus' name, yours, (Signed) "John R. Rice".

JRR:gjr

(Those who want further light on this subject should read the chapter, "Churches and The Church" in the book, **TWELVE TREMENDOUS THEMES** by the editor. The price is \$1.25 for this book of 177 pages, twelve chap-

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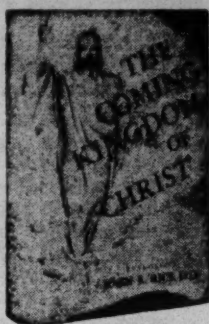
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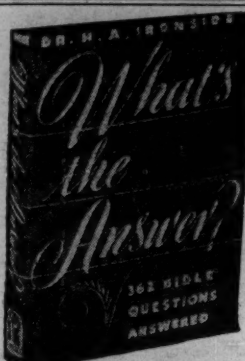
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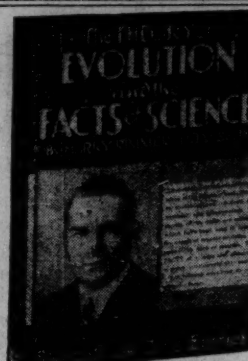
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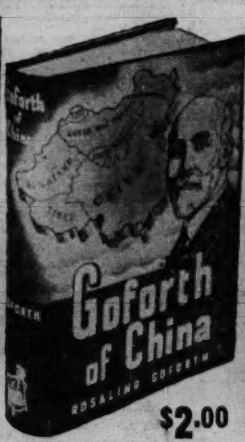
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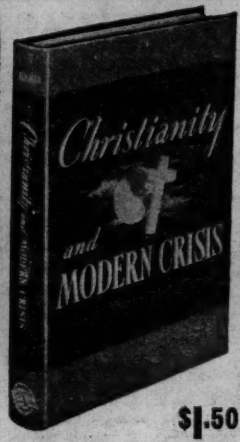
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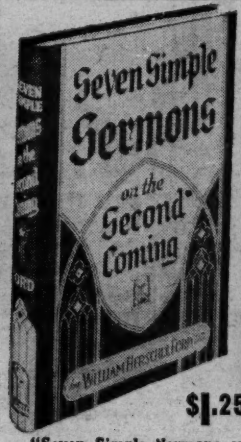
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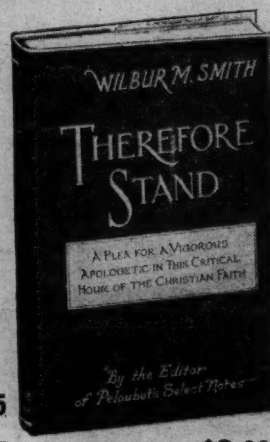
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